

Message Text

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ACTION CU-05

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IAA FOR BELL

STATE FOR CU - MR. HITCHCOCK

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: BILATERAL COMMUNICATION RELATIONSHIP

REF: (A) USIA 3750; (B) USIA 4347

FOLLOWING IS BILATERAL COMMUNICATION SECTION OF NEW ICA COUNTRY
PLAN:

ZAMBIAX INDEPENDENT FOR ONLY 13 YEARS, IS A YOUNG COUNTRY
WITH STRONG EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC LINKS WITH
BRITAIN, ITS FORMER COLONIAL RULER. BRITISH STYLES AND
STRUCTURES ARE A VISIBLE ADD ON TO A SOCIETY DEEPLY ROOTED
IN AFRICAN VALUES WHICH DIFFER SHARPLY FROM THOSE OF THE WEST.
RELATIONS WITH THE U.K. AND THE WEST IN GENERAL ARE TINGED WITH
THE LOVE/HATE SYNDROME COMMON TO MANY FORMER COLONIES.
ZAMBIA HAS ADOPTED A POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT IN
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. ITS COMMITMENT TO THE LIBERATION
STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA HAS DOMINATED THE POLITICAL
LIFE OF THE COUNTRY AND HAS BEEN THE DOMINANT DETERMINANT
OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY PRACTICALLY SINCE INDEPENDENCE. AT
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THE SAME TIME IT HAS COST THE ECONOMY HEAVILY. FOREIGN
GOVERNMENTS ARE JUDGED BY HOW THE ZAMBIANS PERCEIVE THEIR
POLICIES TOWARDS SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THESE PERCEPTIONS
INFLUENCE ZAMBIAN ATTITUDES ON BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL
ISSUES.

MOST OF TODAY'S LEADERS PLAYED A ROLE IN THE ZAMBIAN

LIBERATION STRUGGLE. THEY ARE ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF ZAMBIA'S INDEPENDENT STATUS AND SENSITIVE TO POSSIBLE FOREIGN INFLUENCE AND INTERFERENCE. THIS SENSITIVITY MANIFESTS ITSELF IN A NETWORK OF PROCEDURAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL COMMUNICATIONS BARRIERS THAT CAN INHIBIT U.S. ACCESS. ON THE PROCEDURAL SIDE THERE ARE PROHIBITIONS ON CONTACTS WITH MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL. MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MUST BE REQUESTED THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. DISTRIBUTION OF ALL PUBLICATIONS AND INVITATIONS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BY DIPLOMATS MUST ALSO BE CHanneLED THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. IN ADDITION, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL MUST OBTAIN PRIOR GOVERNMENT APPROVAL BEFORE VISITING ZAMBIAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS. TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS INHIBIT MOVEMENT AND THEREFORE LIMIT COMMUNICATION WITH ZAMBIANS OUTSIDE LUSAKA.

THE MEDIA, WHILE FREER THAN IN MOST AFRICAN COUNTRIES, IS CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THE TWO MAJOR DAILY NEWSPAPERS ARE CONTROLLED RESPECTIVELY BY THE GOVERNMENT AND RULING POLITICAL PARTY. THE BROADCAST MEDIA ARE COMPLETELY IN GOVERNMENT HANDS. A NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY PROVIDES MOST COPY AND THE ONLY FOREIGN WIRE SERVICE (REUTERS) IS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH IT. THE POST'S ACCESS TO THE MEDIA IS GOOD AND USIS RADIO AND FILM PRODUCTS ARE WIDELY AND EFFECTIVELY USED. FILM CENSORSHIP HAS NOT BEEN A PROBLEM JUST A PROCEDURAL HURDLE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEADERSHIP IS VESTED IN A SMALL, EASILY IDENTIFIED AND USUALLY ACCESSIBLE GROUP. ZAMBIAN OFFICIALS ARE NORMALLY OPEN TO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS INCLUDING AMERICANS ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE WESTERN PRESS. THEY TEND TO SEE WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS AS EXTENSIONS OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND QUESTION THEIR OBJECTIVITY AND MOTIVES. PART OF THIS COMES FROM A STRONG SENSE OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE THIRD WORLD OF WHICH ZAMBIA IS AN INFLUENTIAL, MODERATE MEMBER.

ONE OF ZAMBIA'S DEVELOPING TIES WITH THE U.S. IS IN EDUCATION. AT INDEPENDENCE THE COUNTRY HAD NO MORE THAN 100 UNIVERSITY GRADUATES. IT WAS CONSIDERED THE LEAST EDUCATIONALLY DEVELOPED OF ALL BRITAIN'S FORMER COLONIES. THE GOVERNMENT IS KEENLY AWARE OF ITS EDUCATIONAL SHORTAGES AND HAS MADE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO REMEDY THEM. IT PRESENTLY SPENDS A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF ITS NATIONAL INCOME ON EDUCATION THAN ANY OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY. WHILE A MAJORITY OF STUDENTS ARE STILL GOING TO BRITAIN, AN INCREASING NUMBER (PRESENTLY ESTIMATED AT 250) ARE GETTING HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE

U.S. MOST OF THEM ARE ON GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED PROGRAMS.
RETURNING GRANTEES HAVE GENERALLY EXPRESSED STRONG
SATISFACTION WITH THEIR U.S. TRAINING AND ENCOURAGED
OTHERS TO GO THERE.

THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA HAS
STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED ANY FORMAL LINKAGE ARRANGEMENTS
WITH NON-AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES BUT SOME 25 U.S. PROFESSORS
ARE TEACHING THERE UNDER DIRECT CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS
AND OVER 55 MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY STAFF ARE ENGAGED
IN GRADUATE WORK IN THE U.S. AT GRZ EXPENSE. A
FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED QUALITY
INSTRUCTION IN BUSINESS, ECONOMICS, SOCIOLOGY AND PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION. THESE DISCIPLINES WERE IDENTIFIED
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AS IMPORTANT BY THE UNIVERSITY ITSELF.

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WHILE U.S. TRADE WITH ZAMBIA IS LIKELY TO REMAIN
LIMITED BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION, THE
PROSPECTS FOR ADDITIONAL US INVESTMENT ARE SOMEWHAT LESS
CLEAR. DESPITE THE BASIC ANTI-CAPITALIST THRUST OF
PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S PHILOSOPHY OF "HUMANISM", THE FAILURE
OF STATE OWNED ENTERPRISES TO PERFORM ECONOMICALLY HAS
LED TO A SLIGHT SHIFT IN EMPHASIS IN FAVOR OF PRIVATE

INVESTMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE U.S. IS ASSISTING ZAMBIA IN IDENTIFYING INDUSTRIAL AND AGRIBUSINESS PROJECTS SUITABLE FOR INVESTMENT BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR. AS ZAMBIA SEEKS TO DIVERSIFY ITS ECONOMY, U.S. TECHNOLOGICAL KNOW-HOW IN AGRICULTURE AND OTHER FIELDS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT POINT OF LONG-TERM MUTUAL INTEREST.

ZAMBIA TENDS TO MAINTAIN A FAIRLY MODERATE POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES NEITHER SUPPORTING THE US IN MULTILATERAL MEETINGS NOR SIDING WITH THE MORE RADICAL ELEMENTS AMONG THE LDCS. ECONOMIC POLICY MAKERS ARE APPROACHABLE AND GENERALLY INTERESTED IN HEARING US VIEWS BUT THEY ARE CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THE NEED FOR ZAMBIA TO MAINTAIN ITS STRONG THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS. A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH ZAMBIA ON A NUMBER OF NORTH/SOUTH ISSUES, PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATING TO COMMODITIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND DEBT, IS IMPORTANT TO PREVENT ANY MISTRUST OF US MOTIVES AND TO MAINTAIN ZAMBIA AS A MODERATE FORCE IN MULTINATIONAL FORA.

THE U.S. HAS SOME DEFINITE SHORT-TERM COMMUNICATIONS ASSETS IN ITS RELATIONS WITH ZAMBIA: THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DEMONSTRATED INTEREST IN AFRICAN AND THIRD WORLD PROBLEMS, U.N. AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG, AND PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S RESPECT FOR PRESIDENT CARTER. THEIR MUTUAL COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL IS A STRONG PHILOSOPHICAL BOND. TWO OF ZAMBIA'S THREE INFORMATION OFFICES ARE LOCATED IN THE U.S. (NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON). THIS OFFERS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR TWO WAY COMMUNICATION.

IN THE LONG-TERM, OUR COMMON LANGUAGE, GROUNDING IN ENGLISH COMMON LAW, AND ALMOST REVERENT BELIEF IN THE POWER OF EDUCATION SHOULD BE IMPORTANT FACTORS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. THE GROWING INTEREST OF BLACK AMERICANS IN BUILDING BRIDGES TO AFRICA CAN ALSO SERVE TO IMPROVE MUTUAL COMPREHENSION. BUT FUTURE UNDERSTANDING MUST STILL BE BUILT ON FOUNDATIONS LAID TODAY. THEREFORE, OUR OVERALL BILATERAL COMMUNICATION RELATIONSHIP DEPENDS A GREAT DEAL ON HOW ZAMBIANS PERCEIVE OUR ACTIONS IN RELATION TO OUR STATED INTENTIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES. OBRIEN

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